

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE✓



Bread Loaf
WRITERS
CONFERENCE

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

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In the present plans for Bread Loaf, the College reserves the right to make any changes rendered inevitable by circumstances beyond its control.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

SAMUEL S. STRATTON, President of Middlebury College

STEPHEN A. FREEMAN, Vice-President of Middlebury College

THEODORE MORRISON, Director of the Writers' Conference

RICHARD L. BROWN, Assistant Director in charge of Admissions,
Writers' Conference

MARGARET L. HOPKINS, Secretary of the Summer Schools

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Writers' Conference at Bread Loaf

August 12-26, 1953

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

Writers learn, or some writers do. A good writer at the summit of his mature skill can do what he was quite unable to do as an apprentice. He has learned something somehow. The question is, can any planned course or program advance this learning process? Certainly no course can provide talent where it is lacking; certainly achievement is not the simple result of any teachable formula; certainly no sure protection can be offered against disappointment. Yet it would be strange if writers had nothing to gain by trying out their work on knowledgeable readers, by intensive shop-talk, by inquiring into the technical lore and empirical wisdom that those who live by printer's ink have found productive. In such joint discussion, the experienced writer finds the pleasure of recognition and sharpened consciousness of the problems of his craft, and the inexperienced writer finds himself introduced to the recognitions he will need if he is to work his way to his own highest possible distinction.

Such opportunities for learning are what we try to provide at Bread Loaf. In more than twenty-five years of operation, with considerable continuity of staff, we feel that we have learned much ourselves, and that we can offer our jointly-acquired experience with the belief that it is relevant to the needs of those who want to turn words into effective truth or insight. But we have always asked "the mountain" to do more than provide a favorable climate for professional discussion. It has done that, but it has also proved itself a place where the human resources of the writer are enlarged, where spirits are refreshed and minds strengthened by the pursuit of a loved craft in surroundings that people do not forget when the time comes to take leave.

—THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*



STAFF, 1952

*First row: John Ciardi, Mrs. Fletcher Pratt, Theodore Morrison, Director, Mrs. William Sloane, Mrs. Theodore Morrison. Front: Fletcher Pratt.
Rear Row: Lincoln Barnett, Mrs. John Ciardi, Jessamyn West, William Sloane, Rachel Mackenzie, Robert Frost.
Top: Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director (left) and Eric Swenson and Richard Wilbur (right).*

The Staff

In Fiction

FRANK O'CONNOR, man of letters, poet, one of the contemporary masters of the short story. (Mr. O'Connor will visit the Conference to give three lectures epitomizing his own teaching of the short story. Other members of the fiction staff will be present for the whole session).

MAY SARTON, author of several novels and volumes of poems, contributor of short stories to magazines in America and England. Miss Sarton's latest novel, *A Shower of Summer Days*, is a distinguished current success with critics and readers.

ERIC SWENSON, Trade Editor, W. W. Norton & Co., author of a life of Captain Cook, contributor to *Harper's* and *Reader's Digest*, a publisher's editor with insight into writer's problems.

RACHEL MACKENZIE, contributor of short stories to *Harper's*, *New Yorker*, *Woman's Day*, *Good Housekeeping*, etc., a former Bread Loaf Fellow and experienced teacher of writers and writing.

THEODORE MORRISON, Director of the Conference, teacher of writing courses at Harvard; author, following several books of poetry, of the current novel, *The Stones of the House*.

In Non-Fiction

FLETCHER PRATT, whose versatile career has included books, magazine, and newspaper work of almost every known sort, from syndicated columns to biography, history, fantasy and science fiction, to a cookbook. Mr. Pratt's latest biographical study, a life of Stanton, will appear during the summer.

WILLIAM SLOANE, author of *The Edge of Running Water*, etc., Trade Editor at Funk & Wagnalls Co., a publisher of wide experience and imaginative interest in the concerns of writers.

In Poetry

JOHN CIARDI, poet, anthologist, teacher, Executive Editor of Twayne Publishers, Inc., author of *Live Another Day*, etc., a writer and friend of today's poetry and poets.



Robert Frost and Frank O'Connor

Evening Speakers

Besides talks by members of the regular teaching staff, evening programs will include:

A reading by ROBERT FROST.

A talk by WALLACE STEGNER, author of *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, *One Nation*, etc., and head of the writing program at Stanford University.

A talk by LINCOLN BARNETT, author of *The Universe* and *Dr. Einstein* and *Writing on Life*, and of the current series of articles in *Life* magazine on "The World We Live In."

Music by ROWLAND STURGES, pianist, who teaches at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge and has given concerts in Boston, the Mid-west, and Brazil.

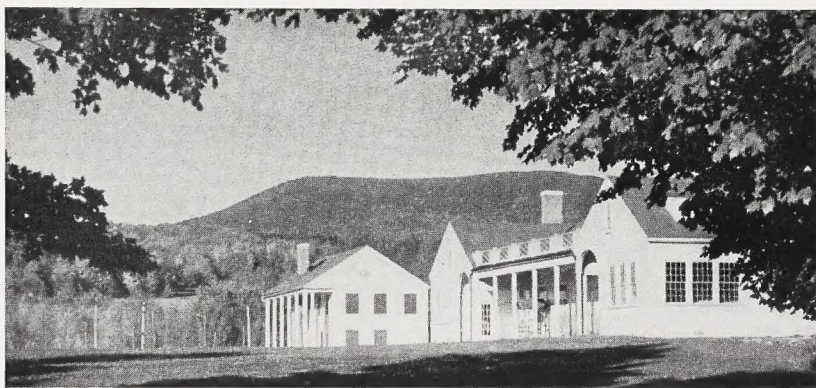
Administration

The Director is assisted by RICHARD L. BROWN, English Department, Middlebury College, who has special charge over admissions.

Life at Bread Loaf

Plan of the Day Morning sessions of the Conference begin at 9:00 or 9:30 and continue, with brief interludes, until shortly before lunch. A session after lunch is customary on weekdays except Saturdays. An evening lecture or entertainment is customary every day except Sundays, which are left free. During the first week, morning and afternoon sessions are largely devoted to talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing. During the second week, sessions are for the most part discussions of manuscripts submitted by contributing members. Individual interviews for criticism are mainly concentrated during the second week. The Conference aims at a balance between work and time for recreation and for making acquaintance both with people and with the country. All attendance at sessions is, of course, purely voluntary. The schedule is so arranged that members can attend all of the extensive discussion program if they wish.

Meals Meals are served at stated hours in the dining room of the Inn, which is operated and staffed by Middlebury College. The



Little Theater and Library



Eric Swenson talks with a Conference member after a Novel Clinic

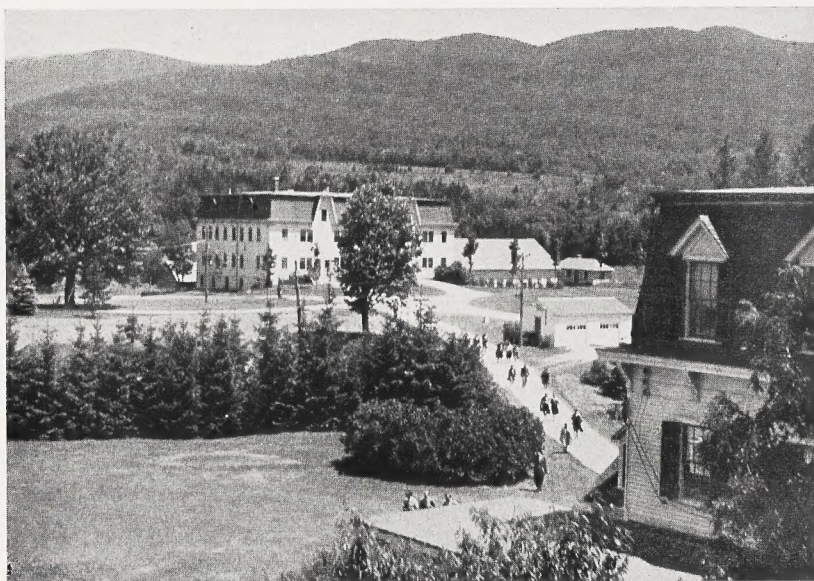
Conference has a club room where late breakfasts and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge.

Services Bread Loaf has a summer post office. Members of the Conference should instruct correspondents to address them at Bread Loaf, Vermont. Taxi service is maintained to Middlebury, twelve miles away, where drugstores, banks, etc., are available.

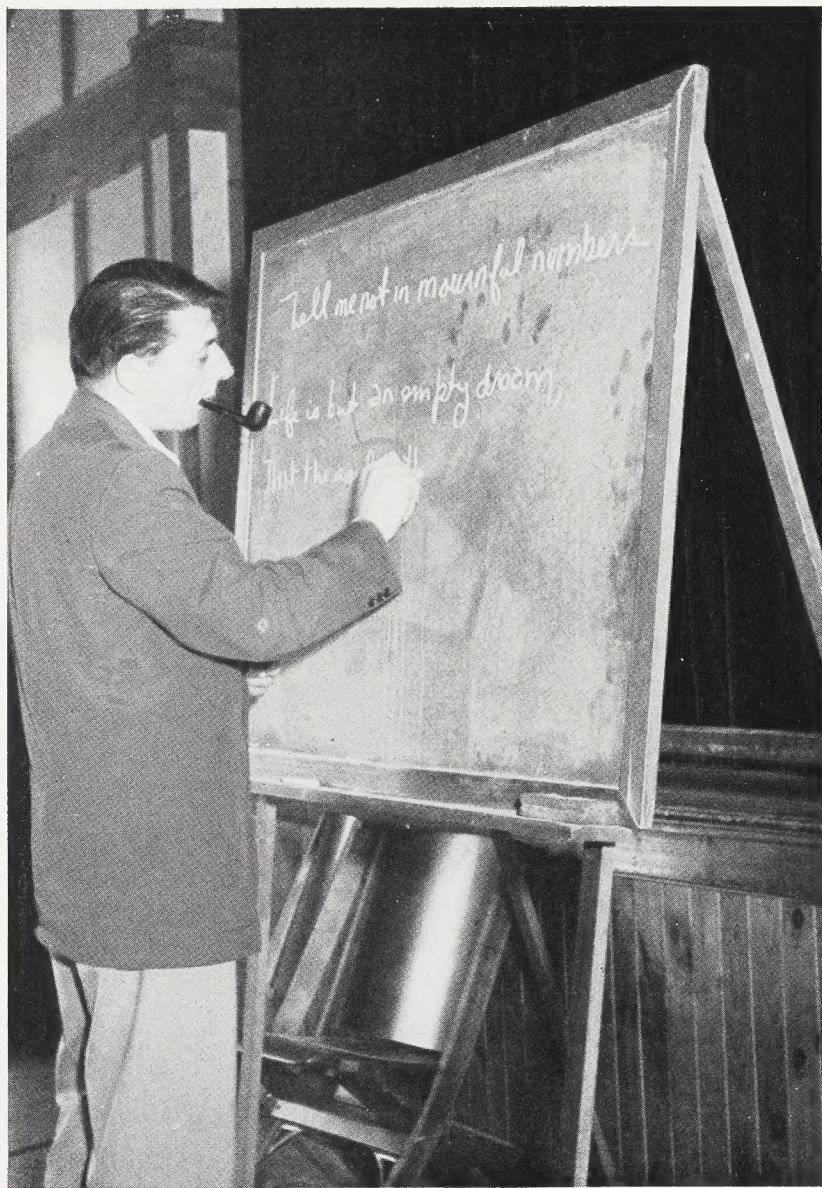
Clothes and Climate The Conference session usually includes both warm, and cool to sharp weather. Members should come prepared for both. Informal dress is always appropriate, but dinner dresses are also appropriate on some occasions for those who wish to bring them.

Recreation Tennis, lawn games, and walks in the woods and mountains are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf. Horseback riding can usually be arranged for. Swimming in streams or at Lake Dunmore is at reasonable driving distance.

Note It will be appreciated if members do not bring radios. Dogs are not allowed in the dormitories. An outdoor parking space for automobiles is provided free of charge.



Noon at Bread Loaf



John Ciardi sets the stage for a poetry lecture

The History of Bread Loaf

Bread Loaf Inn was opened as a hotel in the 1860's by Joseph Battell, who wrote books, bred Morgan horses and kept the Morgan stallion register, and believed in the preservation of forests. He acquired over thirty thousand acres of forest lands, and left this property, with the Inn, to Middlebury College as his residuary legatee. Most of the forest is now national park; the Inn is no longer a public hotel, but the living quarters of two of the Middlebury College Summer Schools, the Bread Loaf School of English in the early summer and the Writers' Conference during the last two weeks of August.

The Conference began in 1926 under the direction of John Farrar, who was succeeded in 1929 by Robert M. Gay. Theodore Morrison has been Director since 1932. The plan owes its origin to Mr. Farrar, then editor of the *Bookman*, who founded the Writers' Conference and directed its first three sessions. Another major force in creating and sustaining Bread Loaf, has been Robert Frost, who has been with the Conference from the beginning and continues to extend its dimension of height and depth today. Perhaps the most tangible evidence of its increasing usefulness has been the extent to which, in recent years, publishers, visiting writers, members of the Conference itself, and members of the staff have offered fellowships to Bread Loaf, believing that it has something to contribute to the writing of the future.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. *Contributors*

Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as Contributors. Contributors are asked to submit, at the time of application, examples of the kind or kinds of writing of which they will later expect criticism at Bread Loaf.

2. *Auditors*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as Auditors.

Auditors may attend all lectures and participate in all open discussions. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

ADMISSION

Both Contributors and Auditors are subject to selection. The basis of admission for Contributors will be the examples of their work they submit with their applications. First choice will be given to those who, in the judgment of a preliminary reader, show professional promise. But inexperienced or beginning writers will be admitted if the preliminary reader considers that they are likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. The basis of admission for Auditors will be any evidence the applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or teaching.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Write for an application blank to the Secretary of the Summer Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

2. Return the filled-out application to Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director in charge of admissions, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Brown examples of your published or unpublished work at the same time that you return your application blank. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by a reversible wrapper or self-addressed envelope and full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.

Applications will be accepted only from people who intend to be present for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance.

The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, both in classrooms and living-quarters, make it impossible to accommodate friends or relatives of members. Attendance can be permitted *only* to regularly enrolled members.

Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.

FEEES

1. *For Contributors*

The charges for Contributors, including board, room, and tuition for the entire term, are from \$160 to \$210, depending on the kind of room desired or available.

2. *For Auditors*

The corresponding charges for Auditors are from \$135 to \$185.

3. A nonrefundable registration fee of \$15 will be called for by the Secretary of the Summer Schools at the time the applicant is notified that he has been accepted for membership. Rooms will be assigned only to those whose applications have been accepted and who have paid the registration fee. This fee will be credited against the applicant's total charges.

4. *Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.*

5. Duly accepted members who have paid the registration fee will be considered, after arriving at Bread Loaf, to have contracted for board and tuition, and will be required to abide by this arrangement. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.



FELLOWS, 1952
Will Thomas, Eugenie Clark, Mary Moore Molony, John Secondari

Fellowships

The Conference offers a limited number of fellowships, paying all regular charges at Bread Loaf, but not travelling expenses. A committee of the Conference staff awards the fellowships, guided by the following policies:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to the Director, addressed to 17 Robinson Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.
3. Tangible achievement, such as published books or contributions to magazines, will be important evidence on a candidate's behalf. But it is also our purpose to discover when possible writers who may be expected to succeed professionally, but whose work is still in manuscript.
4. All nominations, together with supporting manuscripts or published work, should be in the Director's hands by May 15.

The Conference fellowship system began in 1934. A partial list of our fellows, with the firms or individuals that nominated them, includes: James Still (Viking Press); Robert Francis (Macmillan); Eudora Welty (Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (Houghton Mifflin); Dilys Bennett Laing (Duell, Sloan, and Pearce); A. B. Guthrie, Jr. (*Atlantic Monthly*); Esther Carlson (Paul Reynolds and Richard Wright); David Davidson (Random House); Robert Mende (Rinehart); Era Bell Thompson (*Negro Digest*); Doris Davis (William Sloane Associates); Hoke Norris (Lotos Club of New York); O. Williams Pierce (Doubleday); Eugenie Clark (*Harper's*); John Secondari (Curtis Brown, Ltd.).



Director and Mrs. Morrison chat on the lawn at Bread Loaf with Rowland Sturges

Dates

The Conference begins with the noon meal on Wednesday, August 12. Registration will take place Wednesday afternoon, and the first formal meeting will be that evening.

A final session on Wednesday morning, August 26, will complete the Conference program. Lunch will be served in convenient time for members who plan to leave by mid-day train, and supper for members who plan to leave by train Wednesday night. For students arriving and leaving by train or bus, taxis will be available for the trip between Bread Loaf and Middlebury, the cost of the taxi fare divided among the occupants of the cab. Baggage which arrives on or before August 12 will be transported free of charge from Middlebury to Bread Loaf. Members traveling by train or bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.



Along Marble Walk



